



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 1 - Eureka
Contact: Phil Frisbie, Jr.
Phone: (707) 441-4678

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALKER RIDGE CURVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMPLETED ON ROUTE 20 IN LAKE COUNTY

Eureka – Caltrans announced today that the Walker Ridge Curve Improvement safety project on Route 20 in Lake County has been completed. The project, which began construction fall 2006, incorporates a number of improvements to increase safety year-round.

The project improved drainage, widened shoulders, installed radar speed signs, replaced a tight 25 mph curve with a gentle 55 mph curve, and repaved 3.5 miles of highway with a top layer of open-graded asphalt for improved winter traction. Of all the improvements, the most eye-catching is a tie-back retaining wall which is 380 feet long and varies in height from 5 to 50 feet. The wall is anchored, or tied back, to the hillside by steel cables grouted into 201 holes drilled up to 141 feet deep into solid rock. The wall was aesthetically treated by spraying the surface with concrete, hand sculpting a rock texture, and then staining to match existing rock outcroppings.

During construction, impacts to the environment surrounding nearby Grizzly Creek were avoided or minimized. Measures were also taken to reduce impacts to native oak and elderberry, and oak seedlings were planted to replace oak trees which had to be removed.

"This project showcases Caltrans' dedication to use context sensitive solutions, even in rural settings," said Charlie Fielder, Caltrans District 1 Director. "It also shows our commitment to improving highway safety while preserving the environment."

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